

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-12 and 14-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended for clarification purposes only. Reconsideration in view of the above-amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Parker during the June 28 telephonic interview are gratefully appreciated. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

It is also gratefully appreciated that the Office Action indicates that claims 6, 7, 9, 16 and 17 are allowed and that claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 11-15 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 8 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 8 are amended to obviate the rejection. Thus, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takemura (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,444) and Komatsubara (U.S. Patent No. 4,519,678).

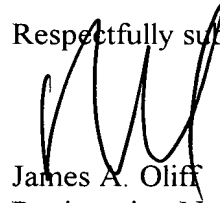
During the June 28 telephonic interview with Examiner Parker, the Examiner indicated that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) was inadvertently included in the Office Action.

Because the Examiner indicated that there is no prior art rejection, he agreed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) will be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments to the claims to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9, 11-12 and 14-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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